

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 05419 261602Z

51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /111 W
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R 261525Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5419

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: BALBIN ON VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE

1. IN JULY 25 MEETING WITH OUTGOING AND INCOMING LABOR ATTACHES ARRANGED BY UCR LABOR LEADER ANTONIO SCIPIONI, UCR PRESIDENT BALBIN CATEGORICALLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INVITATION TO BE PERON'S RUNNING MATE IN FORTH-COMING ELECTIONS. HE RIDICULED PRESS REPORTING ON ISSUE, STATING THAT EVEN HIS OWN REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE HAD BEEN DISTORTED WHEN PUBLISHED. BALBIN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY WAS INDEED IN A CRITICAL STAGE, THE CURRENT "CRISIS" WAS AN INTERNAL PARTY (PERONISTA) ONE, AND THAT INSTEAD OF ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS FACING THE COUNTRY, PERONISTS WERE MERELY ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE PARTY CRISIS IN FOCUSING ON VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD ACCENT CANDIDACY, "IF OFFICIAL INVITATION ARRIVES IN TIME TO BE CONSIDERED BY UCR CONVENTION", WHICH BEGINS JULY 28.

2. AFTER DEPARTURE BALBIN, SCIPIONI STATED THAT BALBIN HAD SOLID BACKING OF 185-190 OF THE 244 DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION, THEREBY ASSURING THE TWO-THIRDS VOTE NEEDED IF HE SHOULD RECEIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 05419 261602Z

PERON'S OFFER. SCIPIONI OBSERVED THAT IF INVITATION NOT FORTH-

COMING, UCR WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RUN OWN SLATE. HE OPINED THAT IN THAT EVENT THE STANDARD BEARER WOULD NOT BE BALBIN OR ALFONSIN, BUT POSSIBLY VICTOR H. MARTINEZ MARTINOLI. MARTINEZ IS 46-YEAR-OLD ATTORNEY AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR (SPECIALTIES: MINING AND AGRICULTURE), FORMER MAYOR OF CORDOBA (1963-66), AND OCCASIONAL TRAVELER TO UNITED STATES (1956, 64, 68). HE NARROWLY LOST CORDOBA GOVERNORSHIP AS CHARISMATIC RADICAL CANDIDATE IN MARCH 1973 ELECTIONS.

KREBS

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NNN

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